

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 782
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize James A. Conner for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those who have dedicated themselves to protecting and improving the quality of life of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, James A. "Buddy" Conner is one such individual who has contributed forty-five years of service to the defense of our nation through his roles as a leader, worker, and soldier; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Conner's forty-three year career with BWX Technologies is a glowing example of loyalty to his fellow employees and dedication to the cause of protecting America; and

WHEREAS, starting at BWXT Technologies as an associate engineer and technician, Buddy Conner rose swiftly through the ranks to become one of the company's four highest-ranking executives; and

WHEREAS, born in Appomattox, Virginia, Mr. Conner's love of his country grew as fast as he did; he served for two years in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from his tour of duty, Buddy Conner entered Lynchburg College and accepted a job at the recently built Nuclear Facilities Plant owned and operated by BWX Technologies; and

WHEREAS, over the next forty years, during which he worked his way from the shop floor to the board room, Mr. Conner worked extensively with the Naval Nuclear Fuel Division, eventually becoming the leader of the division; he provided the United States Navy with fuel for use in its nuclear fleet and never once missed a delivery deadline; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Connor brought his skill and knowledge of the handling of nuclear materials, to the BWXT Y-12 management team at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge in 2000, when he assumed the position of the complex's Deputy General Manager; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Conner also brought with him a disarming charm, an engaging personality, and the rare ability to relate to each of the more than 4,500 employees at the Oak Ridge facility; he was often found greeting his coworkers at seven a.m., and was well-known for forging a relationship between employees, management, and the community; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the community, Buddy Conner serves on various civic and business boards and has dedicated a good portion of his time and energy to the improvement of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Conner is surely one of our nation's great Cold War veterans, a true Cold War warrior, and a genuine servant to Tennessee's communities and people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Conner is taking a much deserved retirement, during which he will enjoy spending time with his lovely wife, Judy, his children, and grandchildren and pursuing leisure time on the golf course; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Conner is an individual worthy of the recognition of this Legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend James A. "Buddy" Conner for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute his loyal commitment to our nation's security and to the protection of our way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.